

are challenging us to reform the campaign laws. Let us follow their challenge and pass Shays-Meehan and make it law.

MARRIAGE PENALTY: TAX CODE PUNISHES TRADITIONAL, TWO-PARENT FAMILY

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the traditional two-parent family becomes increasingly rare, the Internal Revenue Service continues to punish this important institution. Studies consistently confirm what common sense already has told us: more two-parent families mean healthier children with a much greater hope at success in school, on the job, and in life.

The marriage penalty affects about 28 million working couples. They pay an average of \$1,400 in additional tax burden simply by saying "I do."

That is money that could be used to purchase a family computer, save for a child's college education, or make the car payments. Congress must address this immoral tax and strengthen the two-parent family, not punish it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge President Clinton to help Republicans enact significant relief from the marriage penalty this year. Republicans will not rest until the marriage penalty tax has been eliminated once and for all.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in the New Democratic Coalition in addressing the House today on the importance of fiscal responsibility. There is huge pressure on us. Pressure to adopt the huge tax cuts proposed by George W. Bush, the governor of Texas; pressure to adopt hundreds of new government programs. With today's surplus, we can afford some responsible tax cuts and we can afford some additional efforts to deal with intractable social problems.

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But we should remember that the economic expansion that we are in now has already done more for the poor than 100 Great Society programs and has already done more for business than every tax gismo put into the 1981 tax bill that was designed to use the Tax Code and tax cuts to incentivize business expansion.

Mr. Speaker, we need fiscal responsibility and to pay down the debt for our seniors to keep Social Security sol-

vent; for our children, so that we do not leave them a mountain of debt. But even perhaps, more importantly, we need fiscal responsibility. We need to be paying down the national debt in order to continue this unprecedented economic expansion.

MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, last year this Congress passed legislation to end the unfair marriage tax penalty. Regrettably, President Clinton chose to veto it. If he had signed our legislation into law, 28 million married couples could have had up to \$1,400 in additional tax relief this year. Especially, this extra money would have meant a lot to couples just starting out together.

Instead of having the choice to invest this money for their future or use it for everyday expenses they are forced to hand this hard-earned money over to the IRS. And this tax hits average wage earners the hardest. This is unfair.

Mr. Speaker, this House is still committed to ending the tax on married people. This year we will fix the marriage tax penalty.

I urge the President to work with us this time to make it happen.

DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS AGAINST LOCKHEED MARTIN

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thought Southern good ol' boys were a dying breed. How mistaken could I have been? They must have all just been hiding in Lockheed Martin's management suites.

Now, why do I say this? Just imagine a black woman having to get a bathroom pass from her white coworkers and then one of them having to escort her to the rest room to make sure she actually tinkles in the toilet.

And if you are in need of Ku Klux Klan robes and membership cards, I know where you can find some.

Just imagine coming to work and finding a noose hanging around your tool box.

Also, seems Lockheed has found the fountain of youth. How else could they have so many 50-year-old black boys working for them? Not surprisingly, discrimination claims are being filed against Lockheed Martin all across the South from Alabama to North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, if John Rocker needs a job, I think I found the perfect place to hide him.

TOTAL U.S. DEBT

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I bring this chart because I think if we do nothing else, we should be up front, very honest. We should not continue to hoodwink the American people in talking about reducing the debt of this country.

I bring this chart, the total debt of this country is \$5.72 trillion. I divide it in three segments: The Social Security debt, which is now about a trillion; the other trust fund debts are about a \$1.1 trillion; and the debt held by Wall Street or the debt held by the public is now \$3.6 trillion.

What we are doing, when we are saying everybody in Washington says we are paying down the debt, we are borrowing from Social Security; that is why the Social Security debt gets bigger.

Mr. Speaker, we are using those dollars borrowed from the Social Security trust fund to pay down the Wall Street debt, so the net total debt, subject to the debt limit, the total debt of this country that we are passing on to our kids continues to go up.

Let us be honest about it. Let us try to achieve a real balanced budget, and that means the total debt of this country does not continue to rise.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO STALL ATTEMPTS TO PASS MEASURES HELPING MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last year the Republican majority failed to act on the basic issues facing hard working Americans. Time and time again, they sided with special interests over the public interest.

Today, the Republican leadership continues to stall attempts to pass measures that would help middle class families such as saving Social Security and Medicare, improving our public schools and passing real HMO reform.

The American public wants to protect Social Security and Medicare first. We should also be paying down the debt, instead of giving tax breaks to the top 5 percent. We need to pass a real Patients' Bill of Rights that lets doctors and patients make medical decisions, not HMO bureaucrats. And we need to provide a prescription drug benefit for all seniors. These should be our top priorities.

The Republican leadership needs to put the public's interest ahead of the special interests. Our families and our communities deserve a Congress that